present: Heidi Bunkowske, David Fierro, Berta Harris, Minou Spradley, Peter White, Xi Zhang

staff: Desiree van Saanen

i. report from xi zhang

During the October Research Committee meeting, members asked Xi to provide data specific to “pure” ECC students (City credit students who solely attend ECC) in order to identify trends that are unique to the ECC student. In response to the request, Xi distributed a comprehensive report detailing trends in enrollment headcount, enrollment status (by unit), gender, ethnicity, age, primary language and educational objective.

It was noted that over a five-year period (2006-2010), an overwhelming majority of the pure ECC student population were women at an average of 75 percent. Members discussed the possible reasons for this trend (i.e. geographic location, mobility issues, childcare issues, economic barriers, as well as curricular offerings). For instance, ECC has a comprehensive Child Development program that may explain, in part, the large number of female students. However, concern was raised that we, as an institution, may want to consider whether we are narrowing educational opportunities for women in the area by not providing a variety of comprehensive programs at ECC.

It was suggested that a survey be conducted of our pure ECC students to ascertain student goals and their reasons for attending ECC. Members also discussed reviewing the strong and popular non-credit programs at ECC to determine whether these programs could lead to a credit program. Peter will discuss this matter with Mary Benard and Brian Ellison.

From an ethnicity standpoint, most pure ECC students are Latino at 41%, followed by African American (24%); then White (14%). A majority of pure ECC students (an average of 54% over the same five-year period) were classified as “continuing students.” Peter added that Continuing Education “continuing” students are now given the same registration priority as continuing students in credit programs.
II. TRAINING-THE-TRAINER PLANNING:

Committee members continued discussion regarding the utilization of a core group of instructors to train and assist other faculty with research needs. They agreed to postpone this strategy as instructors are already busy with classes and other programs and projects. Other training options were discussed such as following up with BRIC representatives (as possible trainers) and developing training modules. It was emphasized that there is a more immediate need to train faculty in the writing and assessment of SLOs. Committee members agreed that the two flex days in January should be used for SLO development and assessment training.

III. RESEARCH UPDATES AND REQUESTS:

College Reports and Agenda Updates:

- The Diversity Committee will host a college-wide briefing to present the results of the Cultural Climate Survey. Xi reported that the results are based on a very limited pool of respondents that, as a whole, do not fully represent the diversity of the college. Xi cautioned that disaggregating the data by demographic variables may present false trends that do not accurately represent trends at City College. It was suggested that the Diversity Committee may need to build a campaign for future surveys to increase the response rate.

- FYE survey responses have been collected and are currently being analyzed.

- New data has been requested for the NIH-NIGMS grant renewal proposal. It was suggested that a grid be developed that would facilitate the tracking of grant reporting/task deadlines. Committee members also discussed creating a repository for grants and grant development.

- Xi met with counselors and provided them with a debriefing of the Basic Skills Report. Counselors discussed student tracking/monitoring strategies and needs. They use SARS for scheduling and reporting, but ISIS is used for matriculation reporting. Counselors indicated they must enter the same information on both systems. Peter will check with Lynn Neault to see if there is a way to integrate the two systems.

- David asked whether we are able to capture data on certificates of performance (mini certificates). Xi explained that the mini certificates are not recognized by the state.
IV. RESEARCH UPDATES AND REQUESTS: (continued)

College Reports and Agenda Updates:

- Per the committee’s request, Xi will contact Gerald Ramsey to see if any student data exists with regards to the Price Scholars program/students and will report back at the December meeting.

District Research:

District Research is currently compiling feedback/input from the three colleges with regards to the Staff/Faculty and Student Satisfaction Surveys. Committee members asked whether there is room in the surveys to include questions that are specific to the college. Xi explained that these surveys are uniform but each college can add 10 new questions to address their needs. Also, targeted surveys such as the Point of Service (POS) surveys and Campus Facilities survey are customized for the unique assessment needs of the individual college.

A new District IRB will replace all local college IRBs. All institutional research requests must now go through the district. It was noted that City’s research website will need to be updated to reflect this process change.

Xi reported that her .50 research assistant recently resigned. Mesa College also lost their campus-based researcher. The district is currently in the process of recruiting replacements.

Fall 2011/Spring 2012 Meetings (meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Room B-104):

December 13
January 10
February 14
March 13
No April Meeting
May 8